

# THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE MAGAZINE PAGE

## Where Did the Ancient Aztecs Get Their Bible Stories?



The Adam and Eve of the Aztecs Before the Tree of Knowledge. From Ancient Picture Writing Done Long Before the Spaniards Entered Mexico. The Lighter Figure is Eve. The Snake Appears as a Bird.



Eve of the Mayans, the Ancient Cultured Race That Preceded the Aztecs. This Newly Discovered Sculpture Probably Dates from 500 B. C.



The Mayan's Adam, a First Man Carrying His First Born. The Figure is a Companion for Eve in the Same Set of Sculpture Just Found.



A Mayan Bas Relief Representing Eve Tempting Adam. The Two Are Seen Holding the Snake Which Is Counseling Them, and (to the Right) a Wall Sculpture Which Is Thought to Represent Adam and Abel.



Below is the Wonderful Ruined Temple at Uxmal Known as the Temple of the Columns in Which Rituals Corresponding Strangely to the Christian Were Observed Long Before the Spanish Conquest.

### Newly Discovered Records That Interpret Old and New Testament Legends, but Which Were Made Centuries Before the Christian World Ever Heard of America

RECENT discoveries among the ruined cities of Central America, notably by the party in Guatemala, and progress in interpreting those already found and copied in Mexico and Yucatan, have raised with greater force than ever the question of where the ancient Aztecs, the kindred races of the Central American States, and the mysterious Mayan race, which preceded the Aztecs, got their Old and New Testament legends.

The points of resemblance in the religious beliefs and rituals of the old Americans and those held and practiced by Christians are too close to be mere coincidences. Any court of law would pass upon them as derived from a common source.

And yet these traditions and observances were a familiar part of Mayan and Aztec life centuries before the discovery of America by Columbus, and the conquest of their civilization by marauding Spaniards.

### The Dress That Made Paris Vow to Reform Its Fashions



THE world has doubtless been surprised by the news that Paris leaders of fashion have declared that Paris fashions must be more modest.

The world, and particularly the American part of it, have had an idea that Paris and modesty were not on speaking terms, but they were mistaken.

Here is the gown that made the Parisian society leaders declare that this sort of thing had gone far enough.

It is said to be the most décolleté costume ever worn in a respectable public place. It was designed by one of the most noted couturiers of Paris, and was greatly deplored by society because the very best designers have, as a rule, refused to follow the extremes in undress, for which Parisian fashions have recently become notorious.

The offending gown was worn by one of the handsomest and best known actresses of Paris. She appeared in it one evening at one of the best restaurants of the city, before a large gathering of men and women of high social position, including a number of American visitors.

It is worthy of note that even at the time of the Conquest the priests who accompanied Cortes were struck by these resemblances. They found side by side with the basest and most brutal superstitions, the most familiar religious observances. There was, for instance, the ritual of the baptism of infants, and one can imagine the surprise of the conquerors when they saw the babies sprinkled with water just like a Christian babe, while the "heathen" priest prayed "the One Living God to permit the holy drops to wash away the sin that was given to it before the foundation of the world, so that this child may be born anew."

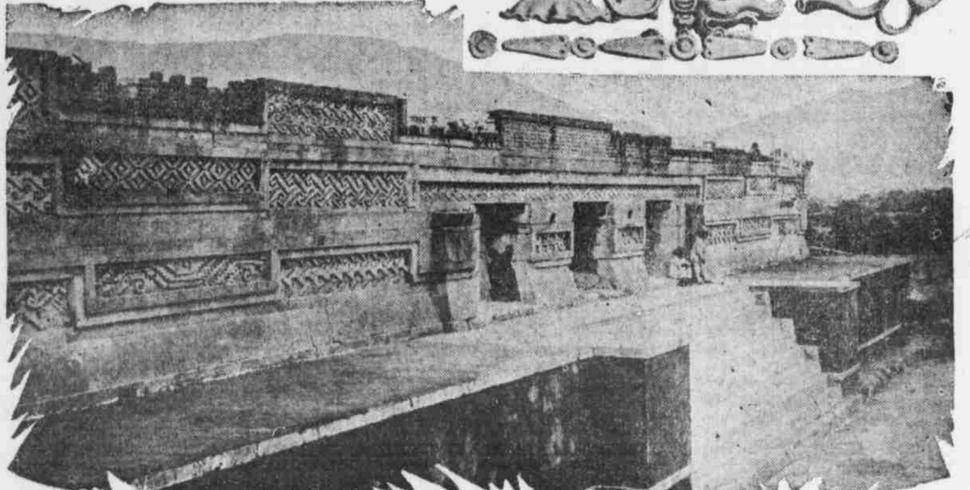
Still more curiously familiar were some of their prayers. "Wilt Thou blot us out, O Lord, forever," ran one of them. "Is this punishment intended not for our reformation, but for our destruction?" "Keep peace with all; bear injuries with humility; God, who sees all, will avenge you."

While the most striking parallel of all with the New Testament, notes the historian, Prescott, was the declaration in their moral code that "he who looks too curiously on a woman commits sin with his eyes."

Again the rite of confession was practiced among the Aztecs, and among the exhortations of the priest was this one: "Clothe the naked and feed the hungry, whatever privations it may cost thee; for remember their flesh is like thine, and they are men like thee."

No mention, however, is made in the older writings of similar stories to the earliest legends of the Bible, the carved illustrations of which have just been recognized.

And here, too, it may be said that almost all the emblems of the Masonic order have been identified in the Yucatan buried cities, carved in their temples. There is even the Apron with the Eye set within the Triangle. In connection with these discoveries an early theory has gained some credence. This is bound up with the story of Quetzalcoatl, the great white God of the Aztecs. The legend they held of him was that one day, back in the far distant past, a stranger of noble appearance, white and bearded, sailed in from the Atlantic Ocean in a bark of serpent skins. He taught them agriculture, gave them laws—and then, incurring the wrath of one of the principle gods of the country, sailed away after promising to return again with his sons and rule the country.



writings identified as telling the story of the Fall, the Tree of Knowledge is often depicted as a cocoa tree, and a bird takes the place of the serpent.

Another significant fact is the use of the symbol of the cross in the great sacred city of Palenque. This was first observed in the famous tablet of the cross discovered at Palenque. It formed part of the Group of the Cross, a remarkable ornament on one of the principal temples. This group shows a cross-like structure with a human figure at each side, and other details. It is covered with closely set hieroglyphic characters. Apparently a scene closely resembling the basic act of the Christian religion is here represented. Whether this is a mere coincidence, or whether Christianity was brought to this land in some forgotten period, is an unsolved mystery.

### To Make Shipwreck Perfectly Safe

A VERY ingenious device has been invented by a German, Gustav Heinrich, which he declares will deprive shipwreck of all its terrors under all circumstances.

Furnished with this device a passenger might be thrown into mid-Atlantic and live in comfort for many days while waiting to be picked up.

The apparatus is made of watertight canvas. It has sleeves ending in gloves. There is a port hole in the head which can be closed when the weather is rough. When the port hole is closed air enters through a tube above the head. No water can enter through this.

The man or woman using this device stands with his feet in a sort of bucket which forms the base. This bucket takes in a certain quantity of water which acts as ballast, and keeps the lifesaver and its occupant upright. Sufficient food and drink can be taken aboard to keep the passenger alive for a week or more.



Herr Gustav Heinrich's Life-saving Suit, Which Is Furnished with Food, Drink and Signals, and Will Keep You Comfortable in Mid-ocean.

The Latest Paris Fashion Creation Which Was Pronounced "Highly artistic, but not suitable for purely social occasions."